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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1934

Congress Finishes Task

Congress adjourned Monday after more than five months of session—sometimes quiet—but always busy on measures that will in time affect the life and existence of every individual in the nation.

We can truthfully say that the last congress has past into history and that it has made history. The general opinion is that the multiple measures enacted will, as a whole, greatly benefit the people of the nation but only time and practice can test the changes in government made in the last congress.

A survey of all the major bills enacted into law would take too much space but some of them are the Bankhead Cotton Act, regulating the production of cotton, the Kerr tobacco bill on much the same order, the reciprocal tariff bill giving the president power to make reciprocal agreements with other nations, the bill authorizing the president to make large purchases of silver, and the housing bill, which should prove of inestimable benefit to the nation in more ways than can be enumerated at the present time.

The accomplishments of the last congress can be summed up as a continuation and stabilization of the policies and measures enacted in the beginning of the present administration of President Roosevelt.

Noticeable among the elements absent in the last congress were clashes with the President. Congress cooperated fully with the administration and passed every measure in much the same manner as favored by the President.

Now the members of the house and senate have gone to the homes to watch the results of their efforts and to campaign for re-election this fall.

The White Plague

Not many years ago a person who was afflicted with tuberculosis—the white plague—was doomed for certain death in a slow and horrible manner. Today medical science has advanced to such an extent that early cases of tuberculosis are no longer hopeless.

But on the other hand tuberculosis is just as deadly as it ever was. The disease has not changed one iota and there is no more hope for the tuberculosis patient than there was 20 years ago if he or she does not take advantage of the opportunities offered to effect a cure.

Realizing the danger of the white plague and watching its toll mount into startling figures, the state of North Carolina has come to the aid of the populace by maintaining T. B. clinics in various counties. Such a clinic is now in progress at Wilkesboro and will continue throughout next week.

The state has furnished the services of Dr. H. F. Eason, a well trained specialist from the state sanatorium, to the people of Wilkes county during these two weeks. To any who have reason to suspect they have contracted the dreaded disease Dr. Eason will give a thorough examination and diagnosis. When he has made his report the patient will know for a certainty whether or not he or she should begin treatment.

As in all contagious diseases prevention is the really great objective. The patients who find by the examination in the clinic that they have tuberculosis can take immediate steps to isolate themselves and to use such precaution in hygiene that relatives and friends will not be in danger of contracting the disease.

With the services of a specialists furnished free, there is no excuse for any person in Wilkes county hanging on to tuberculosis and possibly causing others to have it without knowing the nature of the affliction.

Only in cases where the disease is discovered early can a cure be effected and the people know what the first symptoms are. Having T. B. and failing to take advantage of the clinic is wilful suicide and negligently causing others to get T. B. borders on murder.

Selecting The Route

At the time this is written the final decision on whether or not the \$16,000,000 park-to-park highway will traverse North Carolina has not been made.

We are interested in the road for several reasons and it is the natural inclination to want the road mainly in North Carolina. But there are sound and logical reasons why this great mountain boulevard should follow the North Carolina route along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The principal objective of the road, as we understand it, is to provide the best scenic route between the Shenandoah and Smoky Mountains national parks. A secondary objective is to furnish employment in building the road.

The North Carolina route, as we have said, would follow along or near the Blue Ridge crest and in that manner would come very near to our own county of Wilkes in the neighborhood of Laurel Springs, Glendale Springs and Deep Gap.

We as a collective body of people in Wilkes county would benefit by employment on the road while in process of construction and the proximity of the great skyland boulevard would be an asset for generations to come. For these reasons we sincerely hope that the predictions that the North Carolina route will be selected are based on facts.

Tennessee, our neighbor who is doing everything humanly possible to get at least a part of the road, has been immensely benefitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority project and the inflow of federal funds. The selection of the North Carolina route for the park-to-park highway would do much toward evening up the score.

As for the scenic beauty along the two routes it is our honest opinion that the people of the nation would prefer the North Carolina route. The road would do much toward bringing Northwestern North Carolina into her own and properly advertise this part of the south for its scenic beauty, a thing that has been neglected until this date.

This Week in Washington

Washington, June 18. (Auto-caster)—A great deal more Federal money is to be distributed in various ways designed to get ready cash into the hands of the consumers, within the next few months. It will begin about the first of July, after the close of the Government's fiscal year on June 30, and the present program calls for expenditure at the rate of about \$400,000,000 a month, for an indefinite period.

This money will go out through numerous channels. The newest of these pipe-lines from the Treasury to the individual is the drought relief fund of \$525,000,000, to be distributed in the ten states where the record-breaking drought has wrought havoc among all classes of farmers.

There is still more than a billion and a quarter dollars in the fund for home loans to distressed mortgagors. Some of it is to be put to work to provide employment in the building trades, by the process of making additional loans for repairs and improvements to property on which home loans have been made or which are eligible for such loans.

Money will go out faster now for public works, under the P. W. A. More of the money will go out to finance rural schools. Still more will be spent to continue the C. C. C. camps. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration will put another billion and a half into direct unemployment and poor relief, mostly through and in cooperation with state and local agencies.

Then there are the payments under the wheat, corn, hog, cotton and tobacco contracts, through much of this does not come directly out of Government funds but is collected through processing taxes and distributed by Government agencies.

The belief in Administration circles is now that it will take about another year of Government spending at this rate to

where private capital will find it profitable to come out of hiding and go to work in productive industries.

It is admitted by the Administration's friends that recovery has not come as fast as had been expected, and that some of the Government's projects to stimulate it have not worked. There is also a growing realization that business men and capitalists are not showing any great amount of confidence in the Government. Until that confidence returns, there will naturally be little inclination on the part of private capital to risk its money.

Where investments are most needed right now are in the building industry. More than 5,000,000 men, normally, are employed in the building trades.

It has been President Roosevelt's hope that under the carefully worked out plan for insuring mortgage capital against loss, private funds in enormous amounts would become available for new residential construction. It now begins to look as if, while there is a great need for new homes, few people are willing as yet to run into debt to buy or build houses.

With Congress out of the way until next January there can be no new legislation, and the nation can take time to sit back and evaluate what has been enacted, and find out whether it looks, on the whole beneficial or injurious to private capital and enterprise.

There seems to be a feeling that the President will not willingly use the broad powers granted to him in any injurious way, that he is essentially conservative. In his recent statement expounding his plans for the future he took pains to lay stress on the statement that there is to be no interference with fair and reasonable profits.

The Administration's friends believe that as things quiet down during the summer, business men will begin to realize that a good many of the things that have frightened them are bogies, without real power to do them harm. Also, it looks as though the whole Administration program has now been disclosed.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

Lesson for June 24th. Micah 4:1-5. Golden Text: Luke 1:32.

At the end of this Quarter we can testify to the supremacy of that Great Figure near to whose Person we have, in the course of our studies, all come.

Suppose we think of those qualities in the Master that endear Him to us. Surely He is wonderful in those virtues essential to fullness of character. Think of Hisadroitness, His skill in avoiding the traps set for Him. Think, too, of His quickness so sharply etched in Mark's brief gospel, where "Straightway" is a favorite word.

Then also we remember His clearness, one of the most important of moral qualities. How transparent in meaning are the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, the Lord's Prayer, the parables! And we recall His charm. We do not know the physical characteristics of Jesus. But we can be sure that He was goodly to look upon, that He had, as the poet says, "a sweet, attractive kind of grace." There are references in the gospels to Jesus "looking." He looked upon the people, on His disciples, and on the rich, lovable young ruler. We can picture to ourselves something of the beauty of that look.

And how deep was His emotion! It is said that Marcus Aurelius had a face that never changed. But the face of Jesus continually revealed the play of lights and shadows inspired by His deeply sensitive nature. He "rejoiced in spirit," He "sighed deeply," He became angry. And always was He "moved with compassion."

And what patience! How long-suffering with those petty, quarrelsome disciples! Peter was a sore trial, yet He called him a rock.

And how astounding His achievement! There seems to be no decline in the authority of Jesus. The old, old story is as compelling as ever. With Lamb we can agree that if Shakespeare should come before us, we would rise, but that if Jesus appeared, we should kneel.

The New Tokyo program is Asia for Asiatics, born in Japan.—Macon Telegraph.

"Tear Gas Disperses Mob Demanding Food." Not a very good way to satisfy hunger, however.—Omaha World-Herald.

It takes a pretty good architecture to look well in these modern brevities. The old slogan will have to be changed to "Don't sell Americans shorts."—Dallas News.

Oklahoman is running for governor on a two-bit platform—only 25-cent contributions to be accepted. Well, if elected, he won't be the first two-bit governor the country has had.—Pittsburgh Gazette.

Mary Pickford says there should be a school where women are taught to be reasonably selfish. Any way, there ought to be a school where women are taught to be reasonable.—Houston Post.

Superintendent of the Dallas schools sent out a questionnaire to the high school boys and girls to test just how much they knew about history. One declared Washington was "the hero of the Alamo, a river near Austin." That boy will land in the legislature.—McIntire Examiner.



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